

## The Mysterious Case of Captain America

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/24970363) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/24970363>.

Rating:	<a href="#">Teen And Up Audiences</a>
Archive Warning:	<a href="#">No Archive Warnings Apply</a>
Category:	<a href="#">Gen</a>
Fandom:	<a href="#">Captain America (Movies)</a> , <a href="#">Buzzfeed Unsolved (Web Series)</a>
Relationship:	<a href="#">Implied Peggy Carter/Steve Rogers</a> , <a href="#">implied James "Bucky" Barnes/Steve Rogers</a>
Character:	<a href="#">Steve Rogers</a> , <a href="#">James "Bucky" Barnes</a> , <a href="#">Peggy Carter</a> , <a href="#">Howling Commandos</a> , <a href="#">Shane Madej</a> , <a href="#">Ryan Bergara</a> , <a href="#">Howard Stark</a>
Additional Tags:	<a href="#">it's a buzzfeed unsolved episode</a> , <a href="#">that's it. nothing else</a> , <a href="#">Alternate Universe - Buzzfeed Unsolved Fusion</a> , <a href="#">idunno imagine steve wasn't unfrozen or unsolved was a thing</a> , <a href="#">Canon Compliant</a> , <a href="#">not beta read we die like men</a> , <a href="#">happy birthday steve rogers</a>
Language:	English
Collections:	<a href="#">Social Media Fics</a> , <a href="#">EpicCrossovers</a> , <a href="#">Why must you torture me with these good fics?</a> , <a href="#">Marvel. Steve edition (mainly)</a> , <a href="#">WarriorMarth's Personal Favorite Fic Collection/Reccomended Reads</a>
Stats:	Published: 2020-07-03 Words: 11,701 Chapters: 1/1

## The Mysterious Case of Captain America

by [VanillaBegonias](#)

### Summary

Welcome back to this week's episode of BuzzFeed Unsolved. In honor of July 4th we'll be breaking open an American piece of history and looking into the mysterious identity behind World War Two's Captain America.

### Notes

**this work requires Show Creator's Style to visually work**, be sure that's on in the top corner before you begin to read.

“For anyone not very familiar with BuzzFeed Unsolved, Ryan and Shane have two series, True Crime and Supernatural, where they look into unsolved crimes and try to answer the question are ghosts real (Shane says no). Ryan is the one who researches and presents the case to Shane. In various areas of an episode, they may cut away from video to a screen that is the text of their conversations. When it happens, Shane's text is aligned to the left (yellow) while Ryan's is aligned to the right (blue).” -[icewhisper](#)

Here's a video for reference [X](#)

best viewed with the default skin and **on mobile**

100% not beta read

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

- Inspired by [The Odd Life & Death Of Captain America](#) by [icewhisper](#)

[CC]

>English ✓

>French

>Spanish

>Italian

BUZZFEED

UNSOLVED

**[CAPTAIN AMERICA]**

Welcome back to this week's special episode of BuzzFeed Unsolved. In honor of July 4th we'll be looking at the tight lipped secret behind an American icon and breaking open the famous disappearance of World War Two's Captain America. Let's gear up and look into the man, his actions during the Second World War, and the theories behind who the face under the mask truly was.

I'm excited to get into this –what about you?

this one really considered unsolved?

technically, because there was never a body found –it's a bit like the Amelia Earhart case

I didn't know Captain America was eaten by man-eating crabs

no –no man-eating crabs in this one unfortunately

but you said it was like the Amelia Earhart case...

(sigh)

...let me ask you, before we start, what do you know about the history of Captain America?

not much, my, uh, my granddad had an *old, old* vhs with a bunch of clips and stuff. I *think* I remember seeing some comics

you didn't talk about him in school at all?

yeah, we talked about him in freshmen year for.... I wanna say...maybe a class?

remember anything?

uh... American propaganda, then took a jet down with a missile heading to DC- no, New York.

hero

yeah, that's basically what I remembered too. when I was researching for this there was a ton of stuff I came across that I didn't remember from history class or anything

okay

you could show a little enthusiasm –it's our season finale and a war hero's rumored birthday

I'm enthused! I'm excited to see what you've cooked up!

okay, that sounds sarcastic though

tell me about the birthday boy Ryan!

alright, okay. since you asked

If you're not familiar with the American tale of Captain America let me get you up to speed.



During the Second World War a man only publicly known as **CAPTAIN AMERICA** was presented by the **UNITED SERVICE ORGANIZATION** or **USO** to the American public. Their hope was that his fictitious exploits and all-American look would appeal to Americans to enlist and purchase bonds for the war effort.

He began to show up in enlistment centers on posters in mid-June 1943 and on July 4th 1943, in a stage show in Chicago, Illinois he made his debuted to the public.



The show consisted of three acts –an opening dance number featuring 30 female dancers, a stunt involving **3 SHOWGIRLS BEING LIFTED ABOVE THE CAPTAIN'S HEAD ON A MOTORCYCLE**, and a another act that consisted of talking up war bonds and **PUNCHING A FAKE ADOLF HITLER ON STAGE**

(scoff)  
what?  
...that's ridiculous...  
it's not that ridiculous  
could you imagine something like that happening now?  
wh –you mean someone punching out a fake hitler?  
no, more like, Iron Man going across the states–  
(snort)  
I see what you're sayin'...  
–going on tour, and like, talking up the stock market while beating up a fake Kim Jong-Un  
(laughs)

guys got on a shitty bowl cut wig, wearing a terrible fat suit-  
kids in the crowd are cheering– “*go Iron Man!* beat up that war criminal responsible for crimes banned by the Geneva convention!”  
“we love you Iron Man! kill that dictator with your laser beams!”  
it would be world war three if Tony Stark did something like that. the audience knew Captain America wasn't really beating up hitler, right? like–  
(laughs)  
–they knew his performance had zero weight on anything happening in Europe, right?  
i guess the idea is that, you know, he'd be the face of America for the war and they'd be able to sell more bonds. people would go crazy for him and join up trying to be like Captain America  
right



**IN 1943 CAPTAIN AMERICA APPEARED IN 8 AMERICAN PROPAGANDA FILMS**, his reels played in American theatres before films and the American public quickly rallied behind the shielded man. His reels continued to play until the war's end in November of 1945. A comic book series was released in August of 1943 starring an animated Captain America, and the USO began to print **15 MILLION COMICS A MONTH TO MEET WITH DEMAND**

Captain America went on tour across the United States for four months during the summer and early fall of 1943. While on tour, many of the USO dancers would **SPEAK TO THE CAPTAIN**

**AND A FEW EVEN SAW GLIMPSES OF THE MAN WITHOUT HIS COWL**

**CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS DESCRIBED BY THE DANCERS AS:**



**TALL, OVER 6 FEET IN HEIGHT**

**HANDSOME, WITH A LARGER NOSE THAT MAY HAVE BEEN BROKEN IN THE PAST**

**WITH SHORT BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES**

**MUSCULAR, MANY OF THE DANCERS RECALL HIM AS BEING THE LARGEST MAN THEY HAD EVER SEEN**

**HE WAS IN HIS EARLY TO MID-20'S**

**AND OCCASIONALLY SPOKE WITH AN ACCENT –SOME CLAIMED IT WAS A NEW YORK ACCENT WHILE OTHERS HAVE SAID IT MAY HAVE BEEN A COUNTRY ACCENT OR EVEN ITALIAN**



**ELIZABETH FARIS** was a 19 year old dancer for the Captain America USO show in 1943. She was interviewed in 1947 about her time on tour and Faris had this to say about the unknown man she travelled with:

**QUOTE**

**“THEY DIDN’T WANT US TO KNOW HIS NAME. WE KNEW IT WAS A HUGE SECRET BUT IT WAS SORT OF FUNNY TO US THAT THEY TREATED HIM LIKE SUCH HUGE SECRET WHEN HE WOULD GET NERVOUS TALKING TO US GIRLS. CAP WAS AN INCREDIBLY SHY AND KIND MAN. WE ALL THOUGHT OF HIM LIKE A LITTLE BROTHER. HE’D WALK US HOME AFTER WILD NIGHTS AND GAVE US LITTLE DOODLES WHEN WE WERE MISSING OUR GUYS. HE WAS A SWEET ONE FOR SURE.”**

**END QUOTE**

you know I always thought of him as a ladies' man, kinda like James Bond  
so did I, but that doesn't seem to be the case –he was only rumored to have been in-involved with  
one woman but that's it  
nice guy... nobody knew who he was right?  
no civilians, no  
then how would he have been able to have a relationship anyways?  
that's a good point  
maybe he was shy with women because it wasn't allowed to go anywhere. kinda hard to get close  
to people when you wear an American flag over your face every date  
that's true. and I bet the government was breathing down his back to keep quiet. I mean, why else  
would they stay quiet for sixty something years?  
you callin' Uncle Sam a snitch Ryan?  
(laughs)



In an effort to raise morale, the Captain America show headed across the Atlantic and began to do shows in American base camps in the UK and Western Europe. By late-October of 1943 the USO show had reached the war.

Here's where accounts get blurry.

We know that the Captain America show was scheduled in an American base camp in Italy just five miles from the active warfront in early-November 1943. There was supposed to be an estimated **650 MEN** in the crowd. Five company's worth of soldiers that were to be driven in from around the area for the first bit of entertainment in weeks

but **ONLY 179 SOLDIERS WERE IN ATTENDANCE**

As the story goes, after seeing the empty seats and the grieving survivors, Captain America learned that an estimated **500 SOLDIERS IN NEIGHBOURING AUSTRIA WERE BEING HELD CAPTIVE IN A WORK CAMP BEHIND ENEMY LINES**



While it remains unclear, it's assumed by Captain America historians that the man with a plan undertook a heroic one man rescue mission and **STOLE A PLANE**–

## **FLYING INTO GERMAN OCCUPIED AUSTRIA BY HIMSELF**

what a guy  
an actual hero  
a real John McClane if he did it  
if he did it. and I think he did –you know, even if the government sent him in on purpose, they sent him in alone  
big balls  
massive balls on this guy. to fly into enemy land alone, to save 500 men from captivity  
really makes you think...  
...about of how much of a coward you are?  
well... yeah. pretty much.  
(laughs)  
did he even know how to fly a plane? is that something they teach stage actors?  
that's a good question. you know, nowhere in my research did anyone mention if he had piloting experience –I have to assume he did, otherwise this isn't so much of a heroic story as it is a lesson in flight safety  
...first thing they teach you in improv class these days is how to work the controls of a Boeing 747  
(laughs)



**PRIVATE TERRANCE COULSON** was 37 year when he was imprisoned in the Austrian camp in May 1943. He was the only member of his squad to make it through the camp alive and witness Captain America's rescue firsthand. He was honorably discharged after the injuries he suffered in captivity, and in his 1959 Memoir he had this to say about his rescue:

### **QUOTE**

**“...THE FIRST THING I SAW WAS THE FIVE POINTS OF THE WHITE STAR. I THOUGHT IT WAS A DREAM. I'D BEEN IN THAT CAMP FOR SIX AND A HALF MONTHS AND WHEN I LOOKED BEHIND FOR THE CALVARY, I THOUGHT I MIGHT SPEND SIX MORE THERE, FOR THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN DRESSED IN COSTUME.**  
**...WITH MY EAR AS GOOD AS DONE I COULD ONLY MAKE OUT BITS AND PIECES OF WHAT HE SAID TO A NEARBY GROUP OF MEN. HE ASKED IF WE WERE ALLIES. WE WERE. HE FREED US, THEN ASKED ABOUT A SERGEANT. HE ASKED WHERE HE WAS –IF HE WAS ALIVE AND WHEN WE'D LAST SEEN HIM. ONE MAN SAID HE'D BEEN TAKEN, TO THE FAR SECTION WHERE SOLDIERS WOULD SCREAM UNTIL ANOTHER WAS TAKEN. THE ONE WE'D ALL FEARED TO LOOK AT FOR MONTHS IN TERROR THAT WE TOO WOULD NEVER RETURN.**

**HE TOLD US WHERE TO GO FOR FREEDOM –THEN HE LEFT FOR THAT CORNER OF HELL.”**

**END QUOTE**

**TERRANCE COULSON** goes on to say that by the next time he saw the Captain, it was moments after their firefight out of the labour camp and the man was covered in ash and rips, leading the escaped men through the Austrian forest.

Other sources recall that the Captain wasn't leading the walk alone, and that another haggard looking man was constantly by his side during the 4 day walk back. A man other soldiers referred to as

□

**SARGE**

After the Captain's heroic return to Azzano with the rescued men, he was quickly given full command of a private team and jurisdiction by a group called **THE STRATEGIC SCIENTIFIC RESERVE**

□

**THE STRATEGIC SCIENTIFIC RESERVE, OR SSR, WAS A SECRET ALLIED SCIENCE DIVISION DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR.** They were made up of agents from ally intelligence agencies and were in charge of spearheading **RESEARCH** and **COVERT OPERATIONS** directed towards hindering enemy **SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT**

The team was made up of seven men including the Captain and despite the SSR's involvement, the group was entirely made up of soldiers that had escaped the labour camp in Austria. They were rumored to have been handpicked by Captain America himself and by the start of November 1943 the specialized operations group **THE HOWLING COMMANDOS** had been formed.

Around half a dozen more propaganda reels featuring Captain America along with his new team were filmed during this time. And while Captain America's face isn't visible in any of the films – **THE REST OF THE HOWLING COMMANDOES ARE**

**AND OVER THE YEARS HAVE COME FORWARD OR HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED**

In 1998 the groups telecommunications officer was revealed to be:

□

**PRIVATE JAMES “JIM” MORITA**

A Japanese-American from Fresno, California. He was the only member of his squad from the segregated 442nd Japanese-American company that had survived **5 MONTHS UNDER**



## **CAPTURE.**

The acting explosive expert was rumored to have been:

□

### **JACQUES DERNIER**

Not much is known about Dernier. Records show that he was a part of the French resistance before being captured in Austria. He's rumored to have been from the French country side and worked in construction prior to the war.



### **PRIVATE GABE JONES**

Was from Macon, Georgia and initially a part of the 92nd infantry, a segregated company for Black Americans. He was acting as a temporary translator for the 107th company before his capture at Azzano and went on to do translations for the Howling Commandos. His role on the team came to light in 1967 when he came forward to protest the war in Vietnam.



### **BRIGADIER JAMES MONTGOMERY "MONTY" FALSWORTH**

Was a member of the United Kingdom 3rd Independent Parachute Brigade and an expert tactician with expertise in British and European military tactics. He was revealed in 1998 at the same time as James Morita.



### **CORPORAL TIMOTHY ALLOYSIUS CADWALLER DUGAN ALSO KNOWN AS**

**“DUM DUM”**

hahahahaha! ahahaha!

hahaha!

(wheeze)

(laughs)

haha! his name was *dumb-dumb?!*

yeah –nickname Dum Dum. no ‘b’

that's hilarious! he had like, what? four names to work with, and he picks *Dum Dum?*

Cadwaller’s a pretty cool name

Alloysius! that's a great name! the name of a god–

or a mountain

–or a volcano! Corporal Alloysius is *such* a powerful name!

it elicits fear– “Corporal Alloysius ...you know he’s killed 20 men with his bare hands?”

“Alloysius is a mad man... he *dances with death...*”

“oh him? *him?* that's Alloysius. he doesn’t take prisoners ...he takes *lives.*”

that’s what people would’ve been sayin’ about him! instead they’re like– “oh. yeah. you’re looking for Dum Dum.”

(laughs)



Dugan was from Boston, Massachusetts, and was previously a part of the 69th Infantry Regiment as an expert marksman. He specialized in **PISTOLS AND REVOLVERS** and was known for his **HANDLEBAR MUSTACHE, LARGE ROLL CIGARS AND BOWLER HAT.**

hahahahaha!

*what?!*

(laughs)

are you serious!

yeah, there’s pictures of the hat

(laughs)

this guy is great! what a *character!* He’s got revolvers, a-a handlebar mustache –a*bowler* hat!

he’s a character, that’s for sure

he was out in the trenches –with a-a fucking revolver and a bowler hat-

(laughs)

(laughs)

this was almost the most unbelievable part of this case

I love it! *Alloysius Cadwaller –Corporal Dum Dum.* the bowler hat, cigar smokin', revolver wielding madman

don’t forget-

I forgot the *mustache!* it's too much for one man!  
we aren't even mentioning the 69th infantry bit  
....I like this guy. I like his style

The final member of the Howling Commandos, and arguably the most famous member was:



### **SERGEANT JAMES “BUCKY” BARNES**

Barnes was from New York City and was in the Austrian prison for three months along with the other surviving members of the 107th Infantry before his escape. His role was confirmed in 1967 by Gabe Jones in an interview.

Barnes was in **HIS MID 20’S** and **AN EXPERT MARKSMAN**. He was recorded to have been able to hit moving targets in distances **OVER 300 FEET** and was considered **GIFTED** by those who saw him in action.

Over the next year the Howling Commandos, backed and funded by the SSR, stormed labour camps, prisons, warehouses and hidden operations –many of which had reports of **WEAPONS MANUFACTURING AND HUMAN EXPERIMENTATION**

Little information has been released to the public about the exact purpose of these missions and how many of them might have been successful. The reports the public received around this time were often fabricated by the comics and were told as truth by the publishers. Other stories were told from soldiers who’d fought with the Captain or had been rescued during his missions and returning to the home front.



During this time the Captain America comic book series sold out at newsstands and by the end of

the war the comic book series would sell **OVER 400 MILLION COPIES NATIONALLY**

15 months after the rescue in Austria, and after countless missions in war ridden Europe, **ON FEBRUARY 1ST 1945**



**JAMES BARNES DIED DURING A MISSION** in the Austrian Alps, marking the **FIRST AND ONLY HOWLING COMMANDO WHO WOULD LOSE HIS LIFE IN BATTLE**

**THREE DAYS LATER CAPTAIN AMERICA SEIGED**



**HIS FINAL BASE**

The last time anyone saw Captain America was February 4th 1945 in the Swiss Alps, during what surviving soldiers later named, **THE BATTLE OF RED, WHITE AND BLUE**

According to 30 surviving eyewitnesses, the man with the shield was seen **JUMPING ABOARD A DEPARTING AIRCRAFT**, consistently described as:

**THE WIDTH OF A FOOTBALL FIELD  
CURVED, WITH NO SHARP POINTS  
HAD AT LEAST 6 MISSILES LINED IN ROWS AT THE TAIL  
WITH A WIDE ENTRANCE CARGO HOLD THE CAPTAIN WAS SEEN JUMPING  
INTO AS THE CRAFT WENT AIRBORNE**

In the now conquered base, **14 MINUTES** after Captain America was seen boarding the plane:

□

**PRIVATE MORITA RECEIVED A BROADCAST FROM THE AIRCRAFT**

That broadcast had remained a mystery until **1998** when Morita's son discovered a box of his father's journals from the Second World War **AND PUBLISHED THE TRANSCRIPT OF THAT CONVERSATION**

It's worth mentioning that the original journal penned by Jim Morita himself has been **CHEMICALLY DATED BY EXPERTS TO BE FROM THE MID-1940'S**

The following interaction transcribed by Morita was between Captain America and

□  
**AGENT MARGRET "PEGGY" CARTER** the English representative to the SSR and the only woman he was **RUMOURED TO HAVE BEEN ROMANTIC RELATIONSHIP WITH** by multiple sources over the years.

**THE TRANSCRIPT READS:**



□  
THE CAPTAIN:

**COME IN. COME IN. THIS IS CAPTAIN-CARTER:**

**WHAT'S GOING ON**

THE CAPTAIN:

**TARGET'S DEAD**

CARTER:

**WHAT ABOUT THE PLANE**

THE CAPTAIN:

**THAT'S A LITTLE BIT TOUGHER TO EXPLAIN**

CARTER:

**GIVE ME YOUR COORDINATES. I CAN FIND YOU A SAFE LANDING SITE**

THE CAPTAIN:

**THERE'S NOT GOING TO BE A SAFE LANDING -BUT I CAN TRY AND FORCE IT DOWN**

CARTER:

**I'LL GET HOWARD ON THE LINE. HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO**

THE CAPTAIN:

**THERE'S NOT ENOUGH TIME. THIS THING IS MOVING TOO FAST AND IT'S HEADING FOR NEW YORK... I GOT TO PUT IT IN THE WATER**

CARTER:

**PLEASE DON'T DO THIS. WE HAVE TIME, WE CAN WORK THIS OUT**

THE CAPTAIN:

**RIGHT NOW I'M IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE, IF I WAIT ANY LONGER A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE GOING TO DIE... PEGGY. THIS IS MY CHOICE... PEGGY**

CARTER:

**I'M HERE**

THE CAPTAIN:

**I'M GOING TO NEED A RAIN CHECK ON THAT DANCE**

CARTER:

**ALRIGHT. A WEEK NEXT SATURDAY, AT THE STORK CLUB**

THE CAPTAIN:

**YOU GOT IT**

CARTER:

**DON'T YOU DARE BE LATE. UNDERSTOOD?**

THE CAPTAIN:

**YOU KNOW I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW TO DANCE**

CARTER:

**I'LL SHOW YOU HOW. JUST BE THERE**

THE CAPTAIN:

**WE'LL HAVE THE BAND PLAY SOMETHING SLOW. I'D HATE TO STEP ON YOUR–**

The transmission suddenly cut out, and Captain America and the airship were **NEVER SEEN AGAIN.**

that's bittersweet

it is. it's romantic but you know, heartbreaking because they both know he's not making out of this alive

they were just rumored to be together or? they weren't actually–

yeah, just rumored. it sounds like th-they might've had something going but... it's war time. I'm sure they weren't really thinking about dates and stuff like that

not a lot of time to take walks on the beach and share milkshakes at the diner

exactly, and Peggy Carter has denied ever being a relationship with Captain America. even after this transcript was released she contin-continued to deny it

maybe she just wanted to keep it private ya know? I mean, the man *did die* –pretty gruesomely, I might add

maybe she did! that's completely likely but either way there was no one else alive at the time to confirm or deny it. Morita's memoir came out in '98 right?

ahh...okay. okay. does Morita say if they were a thing?

nope. never been confirmed either. no one ever actually *saw* them together but the transcript is pretty telling. it really implies the nature of their relationship

weird he would publish something like that as a lie and not feed into the hype that Captain America and Carter were a thing

right. so it makes me think she's telling the truth when she says they weren't a thing –which makes me also think that this transcript is legit. because she's never commented on what was said in his memoir

hmm... interesting...

oh, just wait for it. it gets weirder

Before we move on, let's take look at some of the pieces surrounding the anonymous Captain America.

Many consider his choice in weapon a significant piece that makes up the intriguing history of Captain America. But what you may not know it that between his days on stage with the USO and his actions in Europe **HIS ICONIC SHIELD WAS REPLACED**



wha....

....what is it?

question

shoot

I...this guy...he actually went into war... with a piece of metal?

(laughs)

I can't get over that. that was *real*?

(laughs)

I thought it was just a prop! like –like, when rich people pose with lions and eagles

like, lords and stuff with swords and jewels–

yeah!

yeah, no. I see what you're saying but no. apparently he really used a shield. but –the accounts differ. before Austria and in all the propaganda films he's holding a-uh, very stereotypical prop shield and then everything after that point showed him with a large circular one that was made of a substantially better material

I remember the circle one

most people do, the comics almost immediately started to feature it so it's assumed that after he was , you know, legitimate, they gave him a proper one

just seems weird that he'd take a metal plate into battle. I mean, that's why I thought it was fake! so what he can block a bullet or two –then *what*!

(laughs)

it only covers about *half* his body. If I saw him in the trenches I'd just think to shoot him in the legs –throw a grenade under him!

(laughs)

well you'll see that, that might not have worked...

□

It was reported that during the war the Captain was never seen without his shield. It was described by passing soldiers as **SMOOTH AND LIGHTWEIGHT METAL, AND COULD WITHSTAND THE BLAST OF HEAVY ARTILLERY BULLETS**

**THE SHIELD COULD TEAR THROUGH CARS AND CEMENT WALLS** and the Captain was often reported **THROWING THE METAL DISC AT HIS ENEMIES LIKE A BOOMERANG AND MANY EVEN CLAIMED TO WITNESS THE CAPTAIN BEHEADING ENEMIES WITH THE SHIELD**

hahaha!

the boomerang bit or the beheading?

(wheeze)

(laughs)

no!

yeah, people say-

(laughs)

no way! I don't believe that

multiple reports from multiple witnesses

Jesus! that's badass!

right! I don't know how much of this is true–

it doesn't need to be! the imagery alone is horrifying!

I like the idea too much to discount this as false

it sounded dumb –and it still sounds like bullshit don't get me wrong –but I'm on board. gotta love

a man who beheads nazi's with a metal frisbee  
(laughs)

Another case historians often point out is the chase through Brooklyn Heights and Cobble Hill on **MAY 23rd 1943 IN NEW YORK CITY.**

On May 23rd 1943 a man was reported by witnesses to be shooting at civilians and driving erratically against traffic. An unidentified man gave chase through the streets and the perpetrator was seen taking a boy and **PULLING A GUN ON THE BOY.**

The assailant discovered his gun was out of ammo and then **THREW THE BOY IN THE NEARBY RIVER AND RAN**

The unidentified man attempted to detain the assailant and **THE ASSAILANT DIED DURING THE INTERACTION**

While no one has ever come forward to claim the title as the mystery hero, the next day the paper revealed the perpetrator to **HAVE BEEN A NAZI SPY**



This was just **THREE WEEKS BEFORE CAPTAIN AMERICA'S FIRST APPEARANCE IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

The man seen by witnesses chasing the spy was described as:

□  
**BLOND WITH SHORT CUT HAIR**  
**MOVIE STAR HANDSOME**

**TALL, BETWEEN 6'FT TO 6'3"FT  
IN HIS EARLY TO MID 20'S  
AND MUSCULAR**

A woman who witnessed the event said in a local interview:

**QUOTE**

**“HE WAS LARGE. I’VE NEVER SEEN A LARGER MAN. IT WAS LIKE A REAL LIFE  
HERCULES WAS RUNNING ACROSS PIERREPONT.”**

**END QUOTE**

The similarities between the USO showgirls description of the Captain and the man in Brooklyn Heights are hard to ignore and while his physical appearance was described as fairly normal by all accounts, his recorded actions of that day were far beyond normal human capabilities. He was seen:

**JUMPING OVER CARS-**

wait– hold on!

yeah! I know–

hold on! jumping over cars?

stay with me. this might be the most wild thing I’ve read in a article that didn’t begin with Florida man

**HE WAS SEEN JUMPING OVER CARS AS HIGH AS 10FT IN HEIGHT AND AS FAR AS  
30FT IN LENGTH**

*thirty feet?!*

*thirty feet*

what's the average? because I don't think I could jump ten feet if my life depended on it

I looked it –wait, you don't think you could jump ten feet?

no

to save your life, with all those limbs, you–

no!

–you don't think you could jump *ten* feet with a running start?

*with* a running start?....maybe

I suppose with that massive head gravity weights you down substantially more

my head is not big! you're literally the only one that has ever thought that!

not true. by the way the running jump average is about 10 to 15 feet –competing distance is around 20

really? *twenty* feet? Well... I believe it more now

you just said you couldn't do 10 feet without a running start?!

yeah, but I'm not *Captain fuckin' America* Ryan –I expect *Captain America* to be able to jump at least *slightly* above the average

30 feet is *way* above the average!

yeah but he's in comic books! he supposed to jump way above average!

The mystery man was also witnessed:

**HANGING ON THE ROOF OF A SPEEDING CAR**

**HOLDING A GROWN MAN OFF THE GROUND WITH A SINGLE HAND**

**RIPPING A CAR DOOR CLEAN OFF**

**AND RUNNING AS FAST AS 100MPH**

okay! okay!

wait!

this sounds like a load of shit!

(laughs) well, it gets stranger

how does it get *stranger*!? you're talking about a man running *one hundred miles per hour*—

(wheeze)

—hanging onto the roof of a car, ripping metal apart with his bare hands!

stick with me— you know, it's not like this is from a bunch of conspiracy nuts. mor-most of this stuff I had to read about in dissertation papers and articles 40 years ago or older and for this part of the case in particular

.....sure. whatever

As *unbelievable* as all this sounds, not only were **OVER 200 WITNESSES INTERVIEWED THAT DAY BUT AT LEAST 147 COULD CONFIRM THEY SAW A BLOND, MUSCULAR MAN RUNNING FASTER THAN A CAR IN BROOKLYN HEIGHTS ON MAY 23RD 1943**

200 witnesses?

over 200. over. some sources said it was as high as 240, but most of the sources I found claimed 200 as the average

are they sure he wasn't, like, on a horse?

hahaha! and they just *missed* that?

well... *yeah*

I doubt it. I mean, this happened in the middle of the day so—

you're telling me this happened in *broad daylight*?

yeah. did you think it was night?

you said he was chasing a spy!

why— why would that automatically make it nig—

well I don't know! I hear spy I think night time espionage!

....well this happened around noon hour

...awful spy if he's doing his espionage during the day

or you're a really good spy —you don't even need the cover of night you're so good

well... this guy was in the paper for it so he's clearly not that good

(laughs)

I still don't get how they could tell just by looking at him that he was going *100 miles* per hour? your sayin' they lied—

I'm *sayin'* they didn't know how fast he was running! I'm sure when every car is going 20 miles per hour, anyone that's even a little bit fast looks like they're going 100 miles per hour

you think, they just s— they watched him run past, and went, “too fast! that's too fast! he's goin' faster than I've ever seen, I just *know* he must be goin' 100 miles!”

yes! exactly!

that's ridiculous. th-there's no way in your mind that he did what over 200 witnesses said they saw him do?

...I'm saying it sounds like bullshit

(sigh)

The New York Examiner named the unknown man in the article **THE CAPTAIN OF AMERICA** after **HIS MILITARY APPEARANCE AND THE STAR** on the car door he was photographed holding.

Most experts believe that it's very likely that the man who ran through Brooklyn Heights in May of 1943 and the public presence known as Captain America were in fact:



□ **THE SAME PERSON**

That being said let's take a look at the theories for our **FIRST MYSTERY** regarding the infamous World War Two hero.

## **WHAT HAPPENED TO CAPTAIN AMERICA?**

**THE FIRST THEORY AND MOST WIDELY BELIEVED THEORY IS THAT HIS PLANE CRASHED INTO THE ATLANTIC INSTANTLY KILLING THE CAPTAIN**

## **LETS CONSIDER THE FACTS:**

**100 SOLDIERS**, including **MEMBERS OF THE SSR**, the remaining **5 HOWLING COMMANDOS** and **CAPTAIN AMERICA HIMSELF** lay siege to the Swiss base on **FEBRUARY 4TH 1945**

**63 PEOPLE TOTAL SURVIVED** including **MARGRET CARTER, AND THE COMMANDOS**

Soldiers that saw the plane before it departed remember seeing **LARGE MISSILES** attached in rows underneath an opening near the tail. The number of missiles recorded on board was estimated to be between **6 AND 8** but it was revealed to the public years later that the **MISSILES WERE MOST LIKELY IN FACT NUCLEAR WEAPONS** and that if they had reached their destination, would have **OBLITERATED THE AMERICAN EAST COAST**

woah! don't remember that!

the government didn't talk about it until the war was completely over. they didn't want other countries trying the same thing –or you know, so they say sounds pretty cut and dry if you ask me then

I agree. It makes a-a lot a sense that the guy just, uh, you know- fuckin' nose-dived?

well...I-I wouldn't have put it that way but, essentially, yeah

I don't see how he could survive a plane crash *and* a nuclear blast  
no, neither can I. but if you remember what happened in Brooklyn –the, um, witnesses say that he  
was running upwards to 100 miles per hour–  
(sigh)

of course, the, uh, *jumping two* stories in the air, that means he *must have* been able to stop a  
*nuclear blast with his bare hands* –do you *hear* yourself?

I know you don't believe what happened in Brooklyn but if–

I never said I didn't believe it! I–I just find it *extremely* unlikely

experts are convinced the man from the newspaper article and the captain were the same person, or  
at least it was the same man who appeared on stage and in the propaganda reels

sure. doesn't mean he's got cockroach dna and can suddenly withstand the force of six nukes

you're right. I guess it doesn't matter anyways because, I mean you can't run from a nuke

yeah, pretty much toast there

The **SECOND THEORY** is that the plane **NEVER CRASHED BUT SANK**

It's worth mentioning that while at least 6 nuclear weapons were on board, **NO EVIDENCE OF  
NUCLEAR RADIATION HAS EVER BEEN RECORDED IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC.** In  
addition to that, the aircraft was reported to have been:

**A FOOTBALL FIELD'S SIZE IN WIDTH AND MADE UP OF METAL AND STEEL**

**BUT NO SIGNS OF WRECKAGE FROM THE CRASH HAVE EVER BEEN  
RECOVERED**

□

Before his death, **HOWARD STARK** weapons and technology mogul and the father of the  
infamous Tony Stark, believed this very theory.

If you remember during the Captain's final transmission, Margret Carter mentioned that she could  
get a "Howard" working on a solution for landing. During the second World War Howard Stark  
was contracted for dozens of engineering projects, his most controversial being **HIS WORK ON  
THE MANHATTAN PROJECT**

Howard Stark would spend millions of dollars each year until his death in 1991 looking for the  
aircraft and it's wreckage. When he was asked in 1961 why he was continuing his search he said:

**QUOTE**

**"I KNOW ENGINEERING. I KNOW EXPLOSIVES. I KNOW THEM BETTER THAN I  
KNOW MYSELF –AND A PLANE OF THAT DESIGN WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN  
REDUCED TO SHRAPNEL.**

**IF IT MANAGED TO SINK SLOWLY –WHICH I THINK IT DID BASED ON THE  
SHAPE AND SIZE OF THE SHIP –THE HANGING WARHEADS WOULDN'T HAVE  
IMPACTED ON COLLISION AND IT'S LIKELY THAT THE NUCLEAR FLUID  
WOULD HAVE FROZE AND BEEN MADE INERT BEFORE IT COULD BECOME  
UNSTABLE.**



**I'M NOT EXPECTING TO BRING HIM HOME ALIVE. I'M NOT EXPECTING TO EVEN BRING HIM HOME INTACT –BUT HE DESERVES TO REST SOMEWHERE BESIDES A NAMELESS ICY GRAVE IN AN ENEMY MADE TOMB AT THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN.**

**UNTIL I CAN GIVE HIM THAT PEACE, I WILL CONTINUE TO LOOK.”**

**END QUOTE**

It's kinda terrifying to think there's a good chance those nukes are still in the water somewhere that's assuming the plane survived  
assuming the plane survived. thing about the plane is –its huge! this thing was massive! some kind of technology should've found the thing by now-  
not if it was blown up  
it couldn't have! t-Howard Stark believed that too! the world's most famous weapons manufacturer said himself that there's no way those nukes did go off or have gone off it...it is hard to argue with a weapons expert, I'll give you that exactly! this man literally worked on a nuclear weapons project!  
the man knows nukes  
the man knows nukes!

Which brings us to our **THIRD THEORY** that

**THERE WERE NO BOMBS ON BOARD AND CAPTAIN AMERICA LANDED THE PLANE SAFELY.**

As we mentioned, no evidence of an nuclear explosion has ever been recorded and no evidence of a body or crash has ever been found. Some have speculated over the years **THAT THE US GOVERNMENT LIED TO RALLY THE PUBLIC WHEN THEY REALISED THE CAPTAIN HAD GONE AWOL**

**PRIVATE DAVID ROUSSEAU** a survivor of the Battle of Red, White, and Blue would speak about his experience in detail, stating:

**QUOTE**

**“THAT PLANE FLEW RIGHT OVER ME. I SAW THE UNDERSIDE OF THAT BEHEMOTH AND I'LL NEVER FORGET THE CURVE OF DARK METAL. I NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE A MISSILE UNDER THERE.  
I'VE SEEN EVERY TYPE OF MAN COME THROUGH THE WAR. THE YOUNG. THE OLD. THE WOUNDED AND HEALTHY. THAT CAPTAIN WAS ALL THAT PUT TOGETHER AND MORE. YOU CAN SEE IN A MAN'S EYES WHEN HE'S DONE –AND THAT MAN WAS FINISHED. ”**

**END QUOTE**

I don't believe this one and I'll tell you why

okay

it doesn't really make much sense t- for the US to tell the public a war hero died while the war was still going on.

right

most of the public was already familiar with his name and the battle in Austria so I don't see why they would tell people he died when the public didn't know who he was in the first place

I suppose so that people would hate nazi's even more. get everybody talking about how a guy died saving their sorry asses in New York

right, and the whole east coast. but if you knew there weren't any bombs why couldn't you just say you stopped it from taking off and still get all the praise for saving country and still have Captain America around?

...

...

...

...

oh are you asking me?

yes , that's what this is

oh. well I don't know, I think there were bombs on board, I don't think they lied really?

yeah

I kinda expected you to believe that the government lied

the government lies about everything... this? doesn't really make sense to

yeah

just imagine for a second it's 1945

...okay...

you're coming down to breakfast and you know, you're having your coffee and there's a nice warm plate already made up –eggs, toast –

bacon

–you've got your delicious bacon, right. you take a seat, a bite of your delicious food, maybe a sip of your coffee. You unfold your paper and –*bam!* front page in bold size 72 font. Captain

America's dead

would kill your morning

you kidding me? it would kill my week

great, so we're in agreement then

doesn't make sense

excellent, moving on then

Which brings us to our **SECOND MYSTERY**, and the one that the American public has been **ASKING FOR DECADES**

**WHO EXACTLY WAS THE MAN BEHIND THE MASK?**

□

While there are many candidates and theories as to who might have been the man known as Captain America, three men are often pulled into question when looking at the man's identity

The **FIRST** individual experts like to point to is:



### **GILMORE HODGE**

Hodge was 27 in the year of 1943 and was born and raised in Plainfield, New Jersey. He had a fairly quiet childhood, and was known to be a natural leader during his school years. After he graduated high school he went on to work a steady job at the Plainfield train yard.

Hodge received a draft notice in February of 1943 and went through basic training at Camp Leigh in Wheaton, New Jersey. He showed a magnitude of skills in a variety of ways, from **HAND TO HAND COMBAT, MARKSMANSHIP AND STRENGTH**

It was here that he was recruited to a special operations unit for the **STRATEGIC SCIENTIFIC RESERVE**

**THE SAME ORGANIZATION THAT WOULD GIVE CAPTAIN AMERICA CONTROL OF HIS OWN TEAM 5 MONTHS LATER**

4 days after the street chase in Brooklyn Heights, Gilmore Hodge resurfaced in Plainfield only to pack a bag and tell his mother he was **LEAVING NEW JERSEY FOR THE WAR**

A week later his mother received a signed letter from her son in the mail along with 50 dollars in the envelope

**AROUND 750 DOLLARS WHEN ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION**

**GILMORE HODGE THEN DISAPPEARED AND TWO WEEKS LATER CAPTAIN AMERICA MADE HIS STAGE DEBUT IN CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

**HODGE WAS CONSIDERED BY MANY AS A LARGE MAN  
HE HAD SHORT DARK BLONDE HAIR  
AND SPOKE WITH A NEW JERSEY ACCENT –OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR A NEW YORK ACCENT**

While there are a number of similarities between the Captain America many have described and Gilmore Hodge, there are a number of pieces that throw this theory into question

### **FIRST:**

Hodge stood around **5 FOOT 8' IN HEIGHT**, an estimated **4 INCHES SHORTER THAN THE CAPTAIN** His past girlfriends described the man as **ABRASIVE AND RUDE, A DIRECT CONTRADICTION TO THE CAPTAIN'S REPORTED DEMEANOUR** by the USO showgirls.

### **SECOND:**

Hodge's whereabouts were **DISCOVERED IN 2003** when his **DEATH CERTIFICATE WAS FOUND IN A CANADIAN DATABASE**

That being said, if the Captain's ship did manage to land safely, it's entirely possible that Gilmore Hodge drifted to the Canadian Coast and made a new life for himself free from the United States control.

I thought this one had some traction, if you believe he managed to survive the crash or if you believe the plane didn't crash at all  
yeah, he very well could have  
but I don't believe that this man was Captain America and I'll tell you why –this guy was an asshole  
(laughs)

maybe Captain America was an asshole! who knows!  
maybe he was –but this guy, after people did their digging, they found out he'd been arrested twice for domestic abuse and half a dozen times for intoxicated assault while he was up in Canada so he was a little more than a piece of shit then  
he was a scumbag  
yeah... it's hard to believe the most well known American hero in history got into drunken bar fights and hit his wife  
yeah, I don't wanna believe this guy was Cap. moving on

### **OUR SECOND CANDIDATE FOR THE ROLE OF THE MASKED HERO IS HOWLING COMMANDO:**



### **SERGEANT JAMES "BUCKY" BARNES**

While Barnes lacks most of the physical markers besides his height and eye colour, it's his history that makes him the likely candidate to most experts looking into the mystery.

Barnes was born in Shelbyville, Indiana on March 10th 1917 and moved to **BROOKLYN, NEW**

**YORK** when he was 6 years old. He was an older brother to three sisters and was known around his neighborhood as **HARDWORKING, CHARISMATIC AND LOYAL**

His father was an alcoholic and for years spent the family's money on his addiction. Barnes would often send his mother and sisters money after he dropped out of school and moved out at the age of 17 in 1934.

He worked various jobs during the great depression including construction, mechanics, dock work and even a butchery. To supplement money during his bouts of unemployment **BARNES BOXED IN UNDERGROUND MATCHES FOR CASH**

that's cool

it is

...this guy sounds like the guy you would've hated in high school

(laughs)

cause' he's too cool?

yeah, but you can't even tell anyone you hate him because he's a nice guy

guy boxes, he's all fuckin' ripped cause he works all the time and takes care of his family

women must've flocked to him in the streets... "oh! oh *James!* pick *me* to go to the dance!"

"hey Barnes' ya' free for a sodie-pop after ya shift at the docks?"

he probably turns around with a cigarette in his mouth, like the coolest guy ever

—they're fainting on the spot

".....ladies." he just tips his hat and walks off into the night

....too cool

In December 1942 Barnes received his draft noticed and a month later he left the city for training in Camp Marshall, Lewistown, Connecticut. During his time in training he displayed his skills in **LEADERSHIP, MASKMANSHIP AND VARIOUS COMBAT** and was quickly promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

It's thought that here he was drafted **BY THE SSR AS AN AGENT** and after he shipped out was used for **COVERT OPERATIONS**. Within a two month period from his shipping out on May 14th 1943, Barnes was in Azzano, Italy being taken captive and brought to the Austria labour camp.

If you remember, after Captain America's arrival at the Austrian base he released the men from their cells and immediately began to ask about a sergeant. The men told the Captain that a sergeant had been taken to a back section of the warehouse where men were heard screaming for days.

If you also recall, the man in the Captain America outfit was seen leading the men back to the ally base in Italy but he wasn't seen leading alone, a man called Sarge walked beside him the entire route. A man later identified as:



**SERGEANT BARNES**

It should be asked how a man with no proper training could fly into enemy territory completely unscathed? How could he know the layout of the prison? How did he avoid detection? And how did so many prisoners make it out of the camp alive?

Popular opinion says that it's because **CAPTAIN AMERICA NEVER FLEW TO AUSTRIA BUT INSTEAD WAS ALREADY INSIDE THE AUSTRIAN BASE**

Many of the men inside the camp had never heard of Captain America before that day and his costume was often described by the soldiers as:

**A PLASTIC HELMET WITH AN 'A', PILOT'S GOGGLES AND A THIN METAL SHEET WITH AN AMERICAN FLAG PAINTED ON THE FRONT**

It could be that an undercover operative from a nearby base received word of Barnes' capture and to avoid blowing his operatives cover underwent a makeshift disguise to find the SSR agent James Barnes.

It's possible that the screams the prisoners heard were the screams of interrogated soldiers, and the nazi's were searching for the SSR spy amongst the group of prisoners. If you remember what soldier Terrance Coulson stated earlier, the Captain left the group of freed men for approximately 20 minutes before he was seen again with Sergeant Barnes in tow. During this 20 minute period a switch could have been made and the man who marched back with the soldiers **WAS A DIFFERENT MAN**

Either way, it was after the escape in Austria that the USO character Captain America and Sergeant James Barnes merged into one.

During this time Barnes received his new weapon, possibly an experimental weapon design from the Austrian base, and from that point on unwittingly took on the moniker of Captain America. It was eventually found that all 6 of the second set of propaganda reels featuring the Captain and the Howling commandos were **FILMED WITHIN THE SAME WEEK AND NOT OVER THE COURSE OF MONTHS LIKE THE PUBLIC WERE LEAD TO BELIEVE**

It's also been speculated that Barnes may have never been in the 107th at all, and he was in fact the one to perform in shows under the appearance of the ideal American man.

If you'll recall what dancer **ELIZABETH FARIS** and others had to say about the masked man, he was:

**BLOND WITH SHORT HAIR AND BLUE EYES  
HAD A SHY, KIND DEMEANOUR  
WAS HANDSOME WITH A POSSIBLY BROKEN NOSE  
AND SPOKE WITH A NEW YORK OR COUNTRY ACCENT**



Barnes may have dyed his hair for the onstage role of Captain America and he too was considered **HANDSOME, WELL BUILT, KIND AND CHARISMATIC** and his enlistment paper noted his height to be **5 FOOT 11 INCHES**

He lime-lighted as a boxer for many years which could account for a **BROKEN NOSE** in his past and in addition to that, Barnes spent his beginning years in Indiana where he may have picked up a **COUNTRY ACCENT BEFORE MOVING TO NEW YORK AND MIXING THE TWO**

Whether Barnes was the man on stage or not, the USO ended up retiring the Captain America tour in November 1943 and upped comic printing, retelling what stories they'd heard from soldiers returning home. They continued the legacy of Captain America, all the while Barnes did his duty with his specialized team across war torn Europe.

In April 1945 the Barnes family received notice that their son had died during a mission in the Austrian mountains. They were told that given the terrain the army was **UNABLE TO RETRIEVE BARNES' BODY FROM THE ALPS**

It should be noted that Captain America's heroic sacrifice **WASN'T TOLD TO THE PUBLIC UNTIL LATE JUNE 1945 ALMOST 6 MONTHS AFTER THE BATTLE OF RED WHITE AND BLUE**

wh- wait. wait a min- I'm--wait a minute. hold on

yup

six *months*? they didn't tell anyone the east coast was almost *ash* for *six months*

yeah, this was a common practice, still is a common practice for the military to hold back this type of information

so. wait the--I'm so confused. did Barnes take down the plane or not?

they think he did yeah. just not under the of Captain America. the theory is when government, or SSR --or whoever, when they learned that soldiers that were at the battle were talking about Captain America jumping onto a moving plane, they realized they couldn't keep it a secret

Barnes was from New York so his urgency to put the plan down would make a little more sense. you can't deny too, it's strange that he and the captain died days apart in countries right beside each other

I agree, it's strange that they would do a mission in Austria and two, three days later go battle in Switzerland

right, then suddenly both Captain America and James Barnes are never seen again

so they never found his body? an arm or a leg? never found his magic wall crushing shield?

no, and if Howard Stark was willing to spend millions of dollars every year looking for the plane wreck I don't understand why wouldn't have spent a fraction of that looking for Barnes in the Austria

maybe he just didn't like the guy

others have looked though! at least 3 expeditions funded by the Barnes family over the decades and 2 more by interested financial backers

so there's no sign of this guy in the mountains and there's no sign of Captain America

right

this guy was a badass, from New York, everyone loved him and he went missing a few days before Captain America did

yeah

....

you think he's Cap?

I think he's Cap

really?

it makes a lot of sense this guy was just so cool people thought he *had* to be Captain America. I mean, he was running around with a shield, most of the guys that were seeing him were probably traumatized and exhausted, didn't know what to make of this badass

this is the type of guy I can see throwing out witty one liners in the middle of a firefight and some poor bastard in a trench just read a comic about a guy with a shield

they just think he must be the same guy

yeah! I think I would

okay so why wouldn't the US just say he was Captain America then?

because then they would have to admit he wasn't *actually* Captain America. I can't see them explaining to folks back in the 40's that the media just blew it out of proportion when this guy, for all intensive purposes, *was a superhero*

so it's a mix at this point of saving face and honoring the man who saved the coast  
right

Which brings us to our **THIRD AND FINAL THEORY** about the identity of the famous Captain America:

□

## **STEVEN ROGERS**

I just wanna say something about this theory before we get to it  
sure, okay

this theory is fucking nuts

(laughs)

really?

It's the most widely believed amongst conspiracy theorists and it takes a level of disbelief but after I tell you some of the details about this guy you'll see what I'm talking about

I'll –I'll try and keep an open mind

thank you

if you mention aliens I'm leaving. we are talking about a war hero Ryan  
fair enough

□

**STEVEN ROGERS WAS BORN IN 1918** to a Sarah Rogers nee' O'Brien in Wicklow, Ireland. His father was Joseph Rogers, an American soldier apart of the 107th infantry during the First World War.

After Joseph's death, only two months after Steven's birth, Sarah Rogers immigrated to New York City in 1918. She worked as a nurse at multiple hospitals and supported her and her son on a single

parent salary. They lived in a single bedroom apartment in the Dumbo neighborhood of Brooklyn, New York City.

From an early age Steven suffered from a variety of health issues and sicknesses, and his sparse medical records before adulthood show that he had contracted scarlet fever, rheumatic fever and even caught pneumonia **TWICE**.

□

Steven was also **PARTIALLY DEAF AND BLIND** and suffered from a variety of medical issues including **ASTHMA, ANAEMIA, A HEART MURMUR, SCOLIOSIS, SINUSITIS, AND HEART PALPITATIONS TO NAME A FEW**

holy shit!

that's rough. a strong breeze could've killed this guy

give the kid a break! w-what was medicine like back then, because I'm thinking they were probably shrugging they're shoulders, like. "oh well! walk it off *buster!*"

"here's some tape and soup –don't move too fast."

"here's a pack of cigarettes if that don't work!"

(laughs)

I guess he was just lucky his mom was a nurse, cause' I mean he probably would of died, you know, long before he reached adulthood

definitely. definitely! I don't even know what scarlet fever is, but I know it doesn't sound good!

you know, we should be talking about Rogers' mom

she was the real hero...

she really was... she should have been Captain America

Ryan... every mom is a Captain America

(laughs)

Because of his small frame and numerous health issues, Steven Rogers failed to make friends and was mostly remembered by his neighbours and classmates. When surviving locals were asked about Steven Rogers he was remembered for his short frail stature but more importantly his **KINDNESS AND FISTFIGHTS**. A close neighbour who knew Rogers for many years would say about the boy:

#### QUOTE

**"STEVE WAS AN ARTIST AT HEART –THE KINDEST PERSON UNTIL YOU GOT HIM RILED UP AND THEN HE WAS JUST A SPIT FIRE. IF THERE WAS ONE THING THAT PISSED STEVE OFF IT WAS BULLIES. HE DIDN'T LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE GET HURT AND HE LIKED TO STAND AROUND AND DO NOTHING EVEN LESS.**

**...HE COULD FIGHT ANYTHING. I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW MANY TIMES I HEARD SOMEONE YELLING ABOUT THE 'SICK ROGERS KID' GETTING BEAT UP IN AN ALLEY SOMEWHERE. HE'D LOSE MOST OF THE TIME BUT IT NEVER SEEMED TO MATTER TO HIM IF HE WON, JUST IF HE GOT BACK UP."**

(snorts)  
see, I think that's honourable  
ha! I love the- that this kid, has asthma and could die from a bad cold but he's fighting kids in alleyways. that's great  
we don't know much about Steve Rogers but what we do know paints a- uh- a pretty interesting portrait of who this guy was  
scrappy. scrappy guy  
kid's got sputz  
wouldn't want to cross this guy and his inhaler on a bad day  
(laughs)

In 1934 Sarah Rogers **DIED FROM TUBERCULOSIS** and Steven Rogers was left to fend for himself at the age of 16. Steven found a roommate and worked odd jobs in the Brooklyn area. Previous coworkers from multiple jobs remember Steven being let go due to his health issues but remember him as a hard worker. What we know from his paper trail is that he attended an art class at Brooklyn's Aburndale Art School in 1938 and later spent a week in hospital in 1939 after **NEARLY CONTRACTING PNEUMONIA FOR THE THIRD TIME**

Here's where interest in Steven's curious case begins.

After the events of Pearl Harbour in 1941 Steven's name resurfaced in paperwork for enlistment in March 1942. **HE WAS REJECTED FOR HIS ASTHMA, PARTIALLY DEAF AND BLINDNESS AND HEART ISSUES**

At this point Steven's height was marked officially down as **5 FOOT 4"** and the doctor who performed the physical noted **STEVEN'S EASY FATIGABILITY, POOR BONE QUALITY, HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE, AND REOCCURRING SICKNESSES**

Two months later Steven attempted to enlist again, changing his hometown to Newhaven in an attempt to avoid detection.

Over the course of a year **8 MEN WITH THE NAME STEVE ROGERS OR VARIATIONS OF THE NAME** appeared at enlistment stations **WITHIN A 100 MILES RADIUS OF STEVEN ROGERS HOME**

It was later determined that **ALL 8 STEVE ROGERS' HAD NEVER IN FACT EXISTED** and were all **THE SAME MAN**.

□

Each candidate had been **REJECTED FOR MEDICAL REASONS** including:  
**DEAFNESS AND BLINDNESS, ASTHMA, HEART MURMURS, SCOLIOSIS, SINUSITIS,**

**AND HEART PALPITATIONS AND EACH RECRUIT HAD BEEN MARKED  
STANDING AT 5 FOOT 4 INCHES**

same guy  
same guy applying, yeah  
this kid... he had some gusto  
he puts the rest of us to shame  
I don't think I've ever wanted something that much  
what he was doing was a felony offense too  
(gasps)

*no!* not little Stevie!  
yeah, he was lying about his name to the government  
wow  
he wanted to fight in the war that badly, that he was willing to risk prison time to get there  
that neighbour did say he didn't like bullies –nazi is about as big of a bully as you can get  
that's right

On May 14th 1943 Steven Rogers would attempt to enlist a final time under his real name and birth address. 4 days later, his employer filed a missing persons report

We should mention now that Rogers was described in his missing persons report as:

□

**25 YEARS OLD AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE  
STOOD AT 5 FOOT 4 INCHES  
HAD A SOFT VOICE, WITH A BROOKLYN ACCENT  
AND HAD BLUE EYES  
WITH SHORT, BLONDE HAIR**

**CAPTAIN AMERICA WAS DESCRIBED AS:**



**OVER 6FT IN HEIGHT AND MUSCULAR  
BLOND HAIR AND BLUE EYES  
HANDSOME, WITH A LARGER NOSE, POSSIBLY BROKEN IN THE PAST  
IN HIS EARLY TO MID-20'S  
AND OCCASIONALLY SPOKE WITH AN ACCENT THAT COULD HAVE BEEN A  
NEW YORK, ITALIAN OR COUNTRY ACCENT**

We also know that Steven had a history of getting into **FIGHTS** that he often lost. It's not hard to believe a **BROKEN NOSE** may have been in his past.

8 days after Steven's disappearance, the blond mystery man made his dash through Steven's home

of Brooklyn, New York and a month after that Captain America was selling bonds on stage in Chicago.

## **AFTER MAY 14TH 1943 NO ONE HAS EVER REPORTED SEEING STEVEN ROGERS ALIVE AGAIN AND TO THIS DAY HIS DISAPPEARANCE REMAINS A MYSTERY**

Despite the coincidental timing of Rogers disappearance and the official emergence of Captain America in Chicago, it seems unlikely that this chronically frail man could've been the hero with the shield.

Besides his dedication to join the war effort, and his similar appearance and character –what exactly about this boy and his laundry list of medical issues attracts the attention of so many conspiracy theorists.

The first clue comes from



### **CORPORAL “DUM DUM” DUGAN**

yes!

he's back

Dum Dum's back baby!

Alloysius is here to clear everything up for us

you know –if he says this guy is Cap I just might believe him

you would?

yeah. the man wears a *bowler hat* Ryan

you make a good point



Before his death in 1985 Dugan did his one and only interview about his time fighting alongside Captain America during the war. By that point in time Dugan had become a heavy alcoholic and during the interview, while intoxicated, he at one point said about the Captain:



## QUOTE

**“HE COULD MAKE PLANS UP IN SECONDS BUT I’VE NEVER KNOWN MORE STRESS IN MY GODDAMN LIFE THAN WATCHING OVER THAT IDIOT CAPTAIN AMERICA. YOU COULDN’T TRUST CAPTAIN ULYSSES ‘I’VE-GOT-AN-IDEA’ GRANT TO KEEP HIS OWN ASS SAFE EVEN IF YOU’D PAID THE SAP. GOD REST HIS STUPID SOUL.”**

**END QUOTE**

hahahaha!

(laughs)

(wheeze)

I love this guy!

me too a little bit. I don’t think I’ve read about a bigger character in my life

(laughs)

he’s drunk– doing his one interview about the war, and he’s calling Captain America a fuckin’ moron! I love it! I love this guy! I *wish* this man was Captain America!

(laughs)

he is Captain America, he’s just insulting himself in the interview to throw us off

(laughs)

he’s got some deep seated issues he needed to work out

(laughs)

If the name **ULYSSES “S” GRANT** might sound familiar to you, it’s because it’s the name of the **WAR GENERAL DURING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR AND 18TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES** and the man many consider responsible for **ENDING THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR**

This all might seem like the ramblings of a drunk until you take into account that Steven Rogers’ immigrations papers reveal that Steven’s full name was in fact:

□

**STEVEN GRANT ROGERS**

....listen

(laughs)

I like Stevie boy here. I love Alloysius, the man is my new idol...

but?

...it’s.... I don’t really know why a guy who keeled over from breathing too hard would be a candidate for a man who apparently could jump over cars and marched back however many miles from Austria to Italy

that’s not interesting to you though? you don’t think this is the guy?

on paper, sure, sounds like the type of guy you want as Captain America, but it just sounds like a whole lotta coincidences to me

I just don't see how this guy was captain America! He was like, *half a foot* shorter than the guy and *beyond* frail. to me it kinda sounds like he got told "no, you ain't good enough to die for us buddy-boy!" about 6 too many times and just...you know...

what?

...you *know*...

I don't know what you...

he killed himself Ryan!

Jesus! you think the guy-

I think he really wanted to go to war and when he couldn't, he took a long walk off a short pier  
holy shit!

plus! he was like, one cold walk home away from hospitalization –constantly! who's to say he didn't just catch a bus to another enlistment center and died in the woods

that's so dark. wh–why would he have died in the woods?

that's what animals do *Ryan*. anyways, I think the Barnes theory was closer

....why are you smiling like that?

I don't like that. stop it

....*well*.... I'm glad you brought up Barnes...

Which brings us to the **SECOND CLUE** that also answers the question as to how exactly Steve Rogers got on conspiracy theorists radar in the first place. Steven Rogers wasn't even a candidate until 2001 when a Captain America theory forum went online and pooled their information with an open an organized mind. There they were looking into the theory of James Barnes in greater detail and it was then someone noticed James Barnes' name on a piece of paperwork that they had no explanation for. His name listed under an emergency contact for one



## **STEVEN. GRANT. ROGERS.**

Ryan...you sayin' these two daredevils ran in the same gang?

....might be

you sayin' the two badass boys from Brooklyn *N Y C* knew each other?

buddy... that's exactly what I'm saying

Old boxes were dug up and files were searched over in an effort to find the man who might've had valuable items belonging to Sergeant Barnes, only to find out that James Barnes' address had been logged **TWICE** in enlistment records.

## **ONCE UNDER THE NAME OF STEVEN ROGERS**

It was then the curiosity that was Steven Rogers started to reveal itself and it was discovered that not only had Barnes and Rogers lived together just before the war, but the two had in fact been roommates since Rogers' mother's death in 1934. Steven Rogers had moved in with none other than **HIS ONLY FRIEND SINCE CHILDHOOD**



**JAMES BARNES**

The neighbour that spoke about Steven's tenacity earlier on, had in fact been **JAMES BARNES' LITTLE SISTER**



**REBECCA BARNES**

Rebecca Barnes remembers Steven Rogers and her brother being friends her whole life and remembers James moving out of his family's home in 1934 alongside a newly orphaned Steven at the age of 17 and 16 to find an apartment in Brooklyn. The two scratched together enough to pay rent and jumped from apartment to apartment together for **NINE YEARS** until Barnes officially shipped out on May 14th 1943.

**COINCIDENTLY, THE LAST DAY ANYONE EVER SAW STEVEN ROGERS ALIVE**

Rebecca Barnes was quoted saying about the two:

**QUOTE**

**“WHERE EVER ONE WENT, THE OTHER WAS ALWAYS CLOSE BY. THEY WERE AS THICK AS THIEVES AND DID EVERYTHING TOGETHER. IT WOULDN'T SURPRISE ME IN THE SLIGHTEST IF STEVE HAD FOUND A WAY TO FOLLOW BUCKY INTO EUROPE.”**

**END QUOTE**

Rebecca Barnes says that after Rogers disappearance in May 1943 **SHE BEGAN TO RECEIVE UNSIGNED DRAWINGS IN THE MAIL**. Rebecca Barnes states that in addition to her brother's monthly checks from the army and the drawings, **SHE ALSO RECEIVED GIFTS**

**ALONG WITH BONDS IN HER NAME** . If you remember, Steven Rogers briefly attended art school and if Steven had been with the USO tour it would have been easy for him to acquire bonds to make out in her name

Rebecca Barnes says the letters, drawings gifts and bonds abruptly stopped in December of 1944 and 5 months later at the age of 17, she received notice of her brother's passing in the Austrian Alps...

okay...

take your time

these two hellraisers were childhood friends?

bestfriends. people described them as inseparable. some think they may have been lovers

woah! the two baddest boys in Brooklyn were *smoochin'*?

it's a theory some people have. i mean, we'll probably never know, but they did live together for almost a decade and some have pointed out some of their apartments were in predominantly gay areas

so probably gay

possibly. Rebecca Barnes never said anything like that but the internet likes to run with it

hmm...interesting.

there's two sides to this. one –they were in a relationship and after Barnes shipped out Rogers pulled a Romeo and Juliet when he couldn't join up with Barnes, which goes with your dark theory that he offed himself

or two –Rogers somehow became Captain America and went searching for Barnes in Austria when he heard he was missing

huh...

then Barnes dies in February 1945 and 3 days later Rogers lays waste to a nazi base in the mountains before dying himself

...it is romantic... but the stuff with Carter was too –I don't know, strange, if they weren't a thing...

mmhm

I. it's –you know, I don't know what to believe. there are one or two things, where I'm like “okay. hearsay. coincidence. wishful thinking.” but it's a little too many now and I still don't understand or believe how this kid chucked a plate through a car

right. The only thing that doesn't fit is the difference in size, Rogers was 5 foot 4” –everyone says Cap was over 6 feet

right



## **REBECCA BARNES**

In 2004 at the age of 78 when she was first proposed the theory that her brother's friend may have been the infamous Captain America, Rebecca was asked to compare a picture of Captain America to her memory of Steven Rogers. She had this to say:

## QUOTE

**“WHEN I LOOK AT THAT MAN I DON’T SEE HOW HE COULD POSSIBLY HAVE BEEN STEVE. STEVE WAS SHORTER THAN ME WHEN HE WAS 22 AND I WAS BARELY 14. HE WAS AS THIN AS A STICK AND ABOUT AS STRONG AS ONE TOO. WHAT I’M LOOKING AT COULDN’T BE STEVE. EVEN IF HE TRIED FOR A THOUSAND YEARS –AND LORD KNOWS HE TRIED –HE WOULD HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO LOOK LIKE THAT.**

**MY BRAIN TELLS ME IT’S LUDICROUS TO BELIEVE THAT CAPTAIN AMERICA MIGHT HAVE BEEN STEVE. BUT...**

**BUT MY GUT TELLS ME THAT’S STEVE’S NOSE. IT TELLS ME THOSE ARE HIS EMBARRASSED EYES AND THAT’S THE SAME SMILE I SAW HIM GIVE WHEN MY MOM WOULD PINCH HIS CHEEKS. STEVE WOULD WALK INTO WAR TO BRING MY BROTHER BACK AND MY BROTHER WOULD HAVE DONE THE SAME. THEY WOULD HAVE DIED FOR EACH OTHER IN A HEART BEAT –AND A PART OF ME CAN’T HELP BUT BELIEVE THEY DID.**

**I STILL DON’T KNOW WHAT TO THINK EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, BUT I DO KNOW THAT IF MY BROTHER AND STEVE WERE HERE TODAY –THEY’D TELL ME TO TRUST MY GUT. ”**

**END QUOTE**

I’m... officially weirded out

Barnes’ sister, arguably the only person who really knew Rogers besides her brother says that it’s Rogers’ face

okay...

she says logically she knows that Rogers was too small to be Captain America but it looks *just* like him which is weird to her and makes me believe her

I haven’t forgotten the dissertation of medical issues and –blond hair, blue eyes with a broken nose from Brooklyn in 1940? probably find 10 guys on a block who fit that description. people see what they want to see

you just said you thought there were too many coin-coincidences! now you’re saying you don’t believe it was Rogers? what, she’s just seeing her dead brother’s friend from decades ago! what for? what? can you *blame me*? She’s 78. I couldn’t tell you what my brother’s friends looked like when I was 14, how the hell is she remembering a guy from 60 years ago!

but the timeline matches! the personality matches! why Cap went into Austria by himself! why Rogers suddenly disappeared!

sure! Rogers is more, you know, fanciful or whatever, but I just think the theory about Barnes is more likely!

he knew Barnes though! the *only* thing that doesn’t match is the height!

that’s a pretty *definite* difference to have Ryan! how does someone grow *half a foot in a week*? huh?

I don’t–

you think if that was a thing someone was capable of doing we would make them perform *The Fiddler on the Roof* for tips?! no! if you can tell me how the fuck he went from emergency room patient to holding girls on a fucking bike above his head, then yeah. fuck it. Rogers is the guy, sure THANK YOU! that’s it! that’s all I needed you to say, I have no idea how he grew –no one does! but the government does weird shit all the time! maybe they injected his ass with experimental steroids or some shit, I don’t know!

and then just stopped doing that and made him dance to make people smile?

(groans)

If Rebecca Barnes' words are *not enough* to convince you, let me end with one final clue that just might be **THE MOST BIZARRE PUZZLE PIECE IN OUR CASE TO SOLVE THE IDENTITY OF CAPTAIN AMERICA**

**THE MINOR FACT THAT:**



**STEVEN ROGERS BIRTHDAY WAS  
JULY 4TH**

huh

yeah, chills

yeah... okay. that's weird

you see why so many people believe this one?

yeah, you've convinced me –I don't know about what, don't get excited... but this kid's involved – somehow

it's too many coincidences

there's a lot

too many

... this was a weird one

yeah, a lot of twists and turns

showgirls. action. drama. government conspiracies –really, it had it all

it really did

I wasn't expecting all this when you told me we were doing this case. I didn't think there was much to look at to be honest

same. I'd always assumed Captain America was just a gimmick but he ended up being more like the lochness

shrouded in mystery and allure

....right. at the very least he was a tall tale soldiers spread around to get through the night –the man with the shield who fought for America and beheaded nazi's

a real class A hero

We may never know the real identity of the iconic star-spangled man and with no sign of the

Captain's lost aircraft and years of silence from fellow soldiers and the government alike, we can only assume that the man behind the mask will continue to baffle investigators for decades. It looks to be that his true identity will continue to remain...

## UNSOLVED

□

couldn't ask for a better 4th of July. talkin' about beheading nazi's  
it really is turning out to be a beautiful day....  
well! happy July 4th America!  
yeah! and a happy birthday to Captain America!  
that's right! and a happy birthday to Captain America *and* Steve Rogers .... you see what I'm implying—  
yeah I get it. I never said I believed it was Rogers, just that it was weird  
(sigh)

see you next time folks



This was extra but so am I

Thank you for reading! If there were any spelling or phrasing mistakes please let me know!

If you're interested in more I would recommend [icewhisper](#)'s story that I was 100% inspired by and I'm so grateful she was cool with me posting this <3

hmu on [tumblr](#)

if you're interested in the workskin you can check that out

[here](#)

Please [drop by the archive and comment](#) to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!